

TIRUKKURAL

1330 Poetic Couplets by Tiruvalluvar.

Tirukkural constitutes one of the most important literary works in Tamil (Dravidian language of southern India) composed during the sangam period of Tamil literary development (500 – 200 BC). Tirukkural expounds various aspects of life and is one of the most important works in Tamil.

The word *kural* applies in general to something that is short or abridged. More specifically it describes a poetic couplet in which the two lines have fourteen syllables. In the Kural the couplets are arranged in groups of 10 in 133 *adhikarams* (chapters). Each chapter deals with a particular subject.

English Translation
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Part 1 - Virtue

1.1 THE PRAISE OF GOD

1.1.1 The Praise of God

1 'A' leads letters; the Ancient Lord
Leads and lords the entire world.

2 That lore is vain which does not fall
At His good feet who knoweth all.

3 Long they live on earth who gain
The feet of God in florid brain.

4 Who hold His feet who likes nor loathes
Are free from woes of human births.

5 God's praise who tell, are free from right
And wrong, the twins of dreaming night.

6 They prosper long who walk His way
Who has the senses signed away.

7 His feet, whose likeness none can find,
Alone can ease the anxious mind.

8 Who swims the sea of vice is he
Who clasps the feet of Virtue's sea.

9 Like senses stale that head is vain
Which bows not to Eight-Virtued Divine.

10 The sea of births they alone swim
Who clench His feet and cleave to Him.

1.1.2 The Blessing of Rain

11 The genial rain ambrosia call:
The world but lasts while rain shall fall.

12 The rain begets the food we eat
And forms a food and drink concrete.

13 Let clouds their visits stay, and dearth
Distresses all the sea-girt earth.

14 Unless the fruitful shower descend,
The ploughman's sacred toil must end.

15 Destruction it may sometimes pour
But only rain can life restore.

16 No grassy blade its head will rear,
If from the cloud no drop appear.

17 The ocean's wealth will waste away,
Except the cloud its stores repay.

18 The earth, beneath a barren sky,
Would offerings for the gods deny.

19 Were heaven above to fail below
Nor alms nor penance earth would show.

20 Water is life that comes from rain
Sans rain our duties go in vain.

1.1.3. The Merit of Ascetics

21 No merit can be held so high
As theirs who sense and self deny.

22 To con ascetic glory here
Is to count the dead upon the sphere.

23 No lustre can with theirs compare
Who know the right and virtue wear.

24 With hook of firmness to restrain
The senses five, is heaven to gain.

25 Indra himself has cause to say
How great the power ascetics' sway.

26 The small the paths of ease pursue
The great achieve things rare to do.

27 They gain the world, who grasp and tell
Of taste, sight, hearing, touch and smell.

28 Full-worded men by what they say,
Their greatness to the world display.

29 Their wrath, who've climb'd the mount of good,
Though transient, cannot be withstood.

30 With gentle mercy towards all,
The sage fulfils the virtue's call.

1.1.4 The Power of Virtue

31 From virtue weal and wealth outflow;
What greater good can mankind know?

32 Virtue enhances joy and gain;
Forsaking it is fall and pain.

33 Perform good deeds as much you can
Always and everywhere, o man!

34 In spotless mind virtue is found
And not in show and swelling sound.

35 Four ills eschew and virtue reach,
Lust, anger, envy, evil-speech.

36 Do good enow; defer it not
A deathless aid in death if sought.

37 Litter-bearer and rider say
Without a word, the fortune's way.

38 Like stones that block rebirth and pain
Are doing good and good again.

39 Weal flows only from virtue done
The rest is rue and renown gone.

40 Worthy act is virtue done
Vice is what we ought to shun.

1.2 DOMESTIC VIRTUE

1.2.1. Married Life

41 The ideal householder is he
Who aids the natural orders there.

42 His help the monk and retired share,
And celibate students are his care.

43 By dutiful householder's aid
God, manes, kin, self and guests are served.

44 Sin he shuns and food he shares
His home is bright and brighter fares.

45 In grace and gain the home excels,
Where love with virtue sweetly dwells.

46 Who turns from righteous family
To be a monk, what profits he?

47 Of all who strive for bliss, the great
Is he who leads the married state.

48 Straight in virtue, right in living
Make men brighter than monks praying.

49 Home-life and virtue, are the same;
Which spotless monkhood too can claim.

50 He is a man of divine worth
Who lives in ideal home on earth.

1.2.2 The Worth of a Wife

51 A good housewife befits the house,
Spending with thrift the mate's resource.

52 Bright is home when wife is chaste.
If not all greatness is but waste.

53 What is rare when wife is good.
What can be there when she is bad?

54 What greater fortune is for men
Than a constant chaste woman?

55 Her spouse before God who adores,
Is like rain that at request pours.

56 The good wife guards herself from blame,
She tends her spouse and brings him fame.

57 Of what avail are watch and ward?
Their purity is women's guard.

58 Women who win their husbands' heart
Shall flourish where the gods resort.

59 A cuckold has not the lion-like gait
Before his detractors aright.

60 An honest wife is home's delight
And children good are jewels abright.

1.2.3. The Wealth of Children

- 61 The world no higher bliss bestows
Than children virtuous and wise.
- 62 No evil comes and no blemish;
Noble sons bring all we wish.
- 63 Children are one's wealth indeed
Their wealth is measured by their deed.
- 64 The food is more than nectar sweet
In which one's children hands insert.
- 65 Children's touch delights the body
Sweet to ears are their words lovely.
- 66 The flute and lute are sweet they say
Deaf to baby's babble's lay!
- 67 A father's duty to his son is
To seat him in front of the wise.
- 68 With joy the hearts of parents swell
To see their children themselves excel.
- 69 The mother, hearing her son's merit
Delights more than when she begot.
- 70 The son to sire this word is debt
"What penance such a son begot!"

1.2.4. Loving-Kindness

- 71 What bolt can bar true love in fact
The tricking tears reveal the heart.
- 72 To selves belong the loveless ones;
To oth'rs the loving e'en to bones.
- 73 Soul is encased in frame of bone
To taste the life of love alone.
- 74 Love yields aspiration and thence
Friendship springs up in excellence.
- 75 The crowning joy of home life flows
From peaceful psychic love always.
- 76 "Love is virtue's friend" say know-nots

It helps us against evil plots.

- 77 Justice burns the loveless form
Like solar blaze the boneless worm.
- 78 Life bereft of love is gloom
Can sapless tree in desert bloom?
- 79 Love is the heart which limbs must move,
Or vain the outer parts will prove.
- 80 The seat of life is love alone;
Or beings are but skin and bone!

1.2.5. Hospitality

- 81 Men set up home, toil and earn
To tend the guests and do good turn.
- 82 To keep out guests cannot be good
Albeit you eat nector-like food.
- 83 Who tends his guests day in and out
His life in want never wears out.
- 84 The goddess of wealth will gladly rest
Where smiles welcome the worthy guest.
- 85 Should his field be sown who first
Feeds the guests and eats the rest?
- 86 Who tends a guest and looks for next
Is a welcome guest in heaven's feast.
- 87 Worth of the guest of quality
Is worth of hospitality.
- 88 Who loathe guest-service one day cry:
"We toil and store; but life is dry".
- 89 The man of wealth is poor indeed
Whose folly fails the guest to feed.
- 90 Anicham smelt withers: like that
A wry-faced look withers the guest.

1.2.6. Sweet Words

- 91** The words of Seers are lovely sweet
Merciful and free from deceit.
- 92** Sweet words from smiling lips dispense
More joys than heart's beneficence.
- 93** Calm face, sweet look, kind words from heart
Such is the gracious virtue's part.
- 94** Whose loving words delight each one
The woe of want from them is gone.
- 95** To be humble and sweet words speak
No other jewel do wise men seek.
- 96** His sins vanish, his virtues grow
Whose fruitful words with sweetness flow.
- 97** The fruitful courteous kindly words
Lead to goodness and graceful deeds.
- 98** Kind words free from meanness delight
This life on earth and life the next.
- 99** Who sees the sweets of sweetness here
To use harsh words how can he dare?
- 100** Leaving ripe fruits the raw he eats
Who speaks harsh words when sweet word suits.

1.2.7. Gratitude

- 101** Unhelped in turn good help given
Exceeds in worth earth and heaven.
- 102** A help rendered in hour of need
Though small is greater than the world.
- 103** Help rendered without weighing fruits
Outweighs the sea in grand effects.
- 104** Help given though millet- small
Knowers count its good palm- tree tall.
- 105** A help is not the help's measure
It is gainer's worth and pleasure.

- 106** Forget not friendship of the pure
Forsake not timely helpers sure.
- 107** Through sevenfold births, in memory fares
The willing friend who wiped one's tears.
- 108** To forget good turns is not good
Good it is over wrong not to brood.
- 109** Let deadly harms be forgotten
While remembering one good-turn.
- 110** The virtue-killer may be saved
Not benefit-killer who is damned.

1.2.8. Equity

- 111** Equity is supreme virtue
It is to give each man his due.
- 112** Wealth of the man of equity
Grows and lasts to posterity.
- 113** Though profitable, turn away
From unjust gains without delay.
- 114** The worthy and the unworthy
Are seen in their posterity.
- 115** Loss and gain by cause arise;
Equal mind adorns the wise.
- 116** Of perdition let him be sure
Who leaves justice to sinful lure.
- 117** The just reduced to poverty
Is not held down by equity.
- 118** Like balance holding equal scales
A well poised mind is jewel of the wise.
- 119** Justice is upright, unbending
And free from crooked word-twisting.
- 120** A trader's trade prospers fairly
When his dealings are neighbourly.

1.2.9 Self Control

I21 Self-rule leads to realms of gods

Indulgence leads to gloomy hades.

I22 No gains with self-control measure

Guard with care this great treasure.

I23 Knowing wisdom who lives controlled

Name and fame seek him untold.

I24 Firmly fixed in self serene

The sage looks grander than mountain.

I25 Humility is good for all

To the rich it adds a wealth special.

I26 Who senses five like tortoise hold

Their joy prolongs to births sevenfold.

I27 Rein the tongue if nothing else

Or slips of tongue bring all the woes.

I28 Even a single evil word

Will turn all good results to bad.

I29 The fire-burnt wounds do find a cure

Tongue-burnt wound rests a running sore.

I30 Virtue seeks and peeps to see

Self-controlled savant anger free.

1.2.10 Good Decorum

I31 Decorum does one dignity

More than life guard its purity.

I32 Virtues of conduct all excel;

The soul aid should be guarded well.

I33 Good conduct shows good family

Low manners mark anomaly.

I34 Readers recall forgotten lore,

But conduct lost returns no more.

I35 The envious prosper but ill

The ill-behaved sinks lower still.

I36 The firm from virtue falter not

They know the ills of evil thought.

I37 Conduct good ennobles man,

Bad conduct entails disgrace mean.

I38 Good conduct sows seeds of blessings

Bad conduct endless evil brings.

I39 Foul words will never fall from lips

Of righteous men even by slips.

I40 Though read much they are ignorant

Whose life is not world-accordant.

1.2.11 Against Coveting Another's Wife

I41 Who know the wealth and virtue's way

After other's wife do not stray.

I42 He is the worst law breaking boor

Who haunts around his neighbour's door.

I43 The vile are dead who evil aim

And put faithful friends' wives to shame.

I44 Their boasted greatness means nothing

When to another's wife they cling.

I45 Who trifles with another's wife

His guilty stain will last for life.

I46 Hatred, sin, fear, and shame -these four

Stain adulterers ever more.

I47 He is the righteous householder

His neighbour's wife who covets never.

I48 They lead a high-souled manly life

The pure who eye not another's wife.

I49 Good in storm bound earth is with those

Who clasp not arms of another's spouse.

I50 Sinners breaking virtue's behest

Lust not for another's wife at least.

1.2.12 Forgiveness

I51 As earth bears up with diggers too
To bear revilers is prime virtue.

I52 Forgive insults is a good habit
Better it is to forget it.

I53 Neglect the guest is dearth of dearth
To bear with fools is strength of strength.

I54 Practice of patient quality
Retains intact integrity.

I55 Vengeance is not in esteem held
Patience is praised as hidden gold.

I56 Revenge accords but one day's joy
Patience carries its praise for aye.

I57 Though others cause you wanton pain
Grieve not; from unjust harm refrain.

I58 By noble forbearance vanquish
The proud that have caused you anguish.

I59 More than ascetics they are pure
Who bitter tongues meekly endure.

I60 Who fast are great to do penance
Greater are they who bear offence.

1.2.13 Avoid Envy

I61 Deem your heart as virtuous
When your nature is not jealous.

I62 No excellence excels the one
That by nature envies none.

I63 Who envies others' good fortune
Can't prosper in virtue of his own.

I64 The wise through envy don't others wrong
Knowing that woes from evils throng.

I65 Man shall be wrecked by envy's whim
Even if enemies spare him.

I66 Who envies gifts shall suffer ruin
Without food and clothes with his kin.

I67 Fortune deserts the envious
Leaving misfortune omnious.

I68 Caitiff envy despoils wealth
And drags one into evil path.

I69 Why is envy rich, goodmen poor
People with surprise think over.

I70 The envious prosper never
The envyless prosper ever.

1.2.14 Against Covetousness

I71 Who covets others' honest wealth
That greed ruins his house forthwith.

I72 Who shrink with shame from sin, refrain
From coveting which brings ruin.

I73 For spiritual bliss who long
For fleeting joy commit no wrong.

I74 The truth-knowers of sense-control
Though in want covet not at all.

I75 What is one's subtle wisdom worth
If it deals ill with all on earth.

I76 Who seeks for grace on righteous path
Suffers by evil covetous wealth.

I77 Shun the fruit of covetousness
All its yield is inglorious.

I78 The mark of lasting wealth is shown
By not coveting others' own.

I79 Fortune seeks the just and wise
Who are free from coveting vice.

I80 Desireless, greatness conquers all;
Coveting misers ruined fall.

1.2.15 Against Slander

- 181** Though a man from virtue strays,
To keep from slander brings him praise.
- 182** Who bite behind, and before smile
Are worse than open traitors vile.
- 183** Virtue thinks it better to die,
Than live to backbite and to lie.
- 184** Though harsh you speak in one's presence
Abuse is worse in his absence.
- 185** Who turns to slander makes it plain
His praise of virtue is in vain.
- 186** His failings will be found and shown,
Who makes another's failings known.
- 187** By pleasing words who make not friends
Sever their hearts by hostile trends.
- 188** What will they not to strangers do
Who bring their friends' defects to view?
- 189** The world in mercy bears his load
Who rants behind words untoward
- 190** No harm would fall to any man
If each his own defect could scan.

1.2.16 Against Vain Speaking

- 191** With silly words who insults all
Is held in contempt as banal.
- 192** Vain talk before many is worse
Than doing to friends deeds adverse.
- 193** The babbler's hasty lips proclaim
That "good-for-nothing" is his name.
- 194** Vain words before an assembly
Will make all gains and goodness flee.
- 195** Glory and grace will go away
When savants silly nonsense say.

- 196** Call him a human chaff who prides
Himself in weightless idle words.
- 197** Let not men of worth vainly quack
Even if they would roughly speak.
- 198** The wise who weigh the worth refrain
From words that have no grain and brain.
- 199** The wise of spotless self-vision
Slip not to silly words-mention.
- 200** To purpose speak the fruitful word
And never indulge in useless load.

1.2.17 Fear of Sin

- 201** Sinners fear not the pride of sin.
The worthy dread the ill within.
- 202** Since evil begets evil dire
Fear ye evil more than fire.
- 203** The wisest of the wise are those
Who injure not even their foes.
- 204** His ruin virtue plots who plans
The ruin of another man's.
- 205** Who makes poverty plea for ill
Shall reduce himself poorer still.
- 206** From wounding others let him refrain
Who would from harm himself remain.
- 207** Men may escape other foes and live
But sin its deadly blow will give.
- 208** Ruin follows who evil do
As shadow follows as they go.
- 209** Let none who loves himself at all
Think of evil however small.
- 210** He is secure, know ye, from ills
Who slips not right path to do evils.

1.2.18 Duty to Society

211 Duty demands nothing in turn;

How can the world recompense rain?

212 All the wealth that toils give

Is meant to serve those who deserve.

213 In heav'n and earth 'tis hard to find

A greater good than being kind.

214 He lives who knows befitting act

Others are deemed as dead in fact.

215 The wealth that wise and kind do make

Is like water that fills a lake.

216 Who plenty gets and plenty gives

Is like town-tree teeming with fruits.

217 The wealth of a wide-hearted soul

Is a herbal tree that healeth all.

218 Though seers may fall on evil days

Their sense of duty never strays.

219 The good man's poverty and grief

Is want of means to give relief.

220 By good if ruin comes across

Sell yourself to save that loss.

1.2.19 Charity

221 To give the poor is charity

The rest is loan and vanity.

222 To beg is bad e'en from the good

To give is good, were heaven forbid.

223 No pleading, "I am nothing worth,"

But giving marks a noble birth.

224 The cry for alms is painful sight

Until the giver sees him bright.

225 Higher's power which hunger cures

Than that of penance which endures.

226 Drive from the poor their gnawing pains
If room you seek to store your gains.

227 Who shares his food with those who need
Hunger shall not harm his creed.

228 The joy of give and take they lose
Hard-hearted rich whose hoarding fails.

229 Worse than begging is that boarding
Alone what one's greed is hoarding.

230 Nothing is more painful than death
Yet more is pain of giftless dearth.

1.2.20 Renown

231 They gather fame who freely give
The greatest gain for all that live.

232 The glory of the alms-giver
Is praised aloud as popular.

233 Nothing else lasts on earth for e'er
Saving high fame of the giver!

234 From hailing gods heavens will cease
To hail the men of lasting praise

235 Fame in fall and life in death
Are rare but for the soulful worth.

236 Be born with fame if birth you want
If not of birth you must not vaunt.

237 Why grieve at those who blame the shame
Of those who cannot live in fame?

238 To men on earth it is a shame
Not to beget the child of fame.

239 The land will shrink in yield if men
O'erburden it without renown.

240 They live who live without blemish
The blameful ones do not flourish.

1.3 ASCETIC VIRTUE

1.3.1 Compassion

- 241** The wealth of wealth is wealth of grace
Earthly wealth e'en the basest has.
- 242** Seek by sound ways good compassion;
All faiths mark that for-salvation.
- 243** The hearts of mercy shall not go
Into dark worlds of gruesome woe.
- 244** His soul is free from dread of sins
Whose mercy serveth all beings.
- 245** The wide wind-fed world witness bears:
Men of mercy meet not sorrows.
- 246** Who grace forsake and graceless act
The former loss and woes forget.
- 247** This world is not for weathless ones
That world is not for graceless swines.
- 248** The wealthless may prosper one day;
The graceless never bloom agay.
- 249** Like Truth twisted by confused mind
Wisdom is vain in hearts unkind.
- 250** Think how you feel before the strong
When to the feeble you do wrong.

1.3.2 Abstinence from Flesh

- 251** What graciousness can one command
who feeds his flesh by flesh gourmand.
- 252** The thriftless have no property
And flesh-eaters have no pity.
- 253** Who wields a steel is steel-hearted
Who tastes body is hard-hearted.
- 254** If merciless it is to kill,
To kill and eat is disgraceful.
- 255** Off with flesh; a life you save
The eater hell's mouth shall not waive!

- 256** None would kill and sell the flesh
For eating it if they don't wish.
- 257** From eating flesh men must abstain
If they but feel the being's pain.
- 258** Whose mind from illusion is freed
Refuse on lifeless flesh to feed.
- 259** Not to-kill-and-eat, truly
Excels thousand pourings of ghee!
- 260** All lives shall lift their palms to him
Who eats not flesh nor kills with whim.

1.3.3 Penance

- 261** Pains endure; pain not beings
This is the type of true penance.
- 262** Penance is fit for penitents
Not for him who in vain pretends.
- 263** Is it to true penitent's aid,
That others austere path avoid?
- 264** In penance lies the power to save
The friends and foil the foe and knave.
- 265** What they wish as they wish is won
Here hence by men penance is done.
- 266** Who do penance achieve their aim
Others desire-rid themselves harm.
- 267** Pure and bright gets the gold in fire;
and so the life by pain austere.
- 268** He worship wins from every soul
Who Master is by soul control.
- 269** They can even defy death
Who get by penance godly strenth.
- 270** Many are poor and few are rich
For they care not for penance much.

1.3.4 Imposture

- 271** Elements five of feigned life
Of a sly hypocrite within laugh.
- 272** Of what avail are sky-high shows
When guild the conscience gnaws and knows.
- 273** Vaunting sainthood while week within
Seems a grazer with tiger skin.
- 274** Sinning in saintly show is like
Fowlers in ambush birds to strike.
- 275** Who false within but freedom feign
Shall moan "What have we done" with pain.
- 276** Vilest is he who seems a saint
Cheating the world without restraint.
- 277** Berry-red is his outward view,
Black like its nose his inward hue.
- 278** Filthy in mind some bathe in streams
Hiding sins in showy extremes.
- 279** Know men by acts and not by forms
Strait arrow kills, bent lute but charms.
- 280** No balding nor tangling the hair!
Abstain from condemned acts with care.

1.3.5 Absence of Fraud

- 281** Let him who would reproachless be
From all frauds guard his conscience free.
- 282** "We will by fraud win other's wealth"
Even this thought is sin and stealth.
- 283** The gain by fraud may overflow
But swift to ruin it shall go.
- 284** The fruit that fraud and greed obtain
Shall end in endless grief and pain.
- 285** Love and Grace are not their worth
Who watch to waylay dozer's wealth.

286 They cannot walk in measured bounds
who crave and have covetous ends.

287 Men of measured wisdom shun
Black art of fraud and what it won.

288 Virtue abides in righteous hearts
Into minds of frauds deceit darts.

289 They perish in their perfidy
Who know nothing but pilfery.

290 Even the body rejects thieves;
The honest men, heaven receives.

1.3.6 Veracity

291 If "What is truth"? the question be,
It is to speak out evil-free.

292 E'en falsehood may for truth suffice,
When good it brings removing vice.

293 Let not a man knowingly lie;
Conscience will scorch and make him sigh.

294 He lives in loving hearts of all
Who serves the Truth serene in soul.

295 To speak the truth from heart sincere
Is more than giving and living austere.

296 Not to lie brings all the praise
All virtues from Truth arise.

297 Lie not lie not. Naught else you need
All virtues are in Truth indeed.

298 Water makes you pure outward
Truth renders you pure inward.

299 All lights are not lights for the wise;
Truth light is light bright like Sun-light.

300 Of all the things we here have seen
Nothing surpasses Truth serene!

1.3.7 Restraining Anger

- 301 Anger against the weak is wrong
It is futile against the strong.
- 302 Vain is wrath against men of force
Against the meek it is still worse.
- 303 Off with wrath with any one.
It is the source of sin and pain.
- 304 Is there a foe like harmful ire
Which kills the smile and joyful cheer?
- 305 Thyself to save, from wrath away!
If not thyself the wrath will slay.
- 306 Friend-killer is the fatal rage
It burns the helpful kinship-barge.
- 307 The wrath-lover to doom is bound
Like failless-hand that strikes the ground.
- 308 Save thy soul from burning ire
Though tortured like the touch of fire.
- 309 Wishes he gains as he wishes
If man refrains from rage vicious!
- 310 Dead are they who are anger-fed
Saints are they from whom wrath has fled.

1.3.8 Non Violence

- 311 The pure by faith mean pain to none
Though princely wealth by that is won.
- 312 The spotless hearts seek not revenge
Though Malice does the worst in rage.
- 313 Revenging even causeless hate
Bad-blood breeds and baneful heat.
- 314 Doing good-turns, put them to shame
Thus chide the evil who do harm.
- 315 What does a man from wisdom gain
If he pines not at other's pain?

- 316 What you feel as pain to yourself
Do it not to the other-self.

- 317 Any, anywhere injure not
At any time even in thought.

- 318 How can he injure other souls
Who in his life injury feels.

- 319 Harm others in the forenoon
Harm seeks thee in afternoon.

- 320 No harm is done by peace-lovers
For pains rebound on pain-givers.

1.3.9 Non-Killing

- 321 What is Virtue? 'Tis not to kill
For killing causes every ill.

- 322 Share the food and serve all lives
This is the law of all the laws.

- 323 Not to kill is unique good
The next, not to utter falsehood.

- 324 What way is good? That we can say
The way away from heat to slay.

- 325 Of saints who renounce birth-fearing
The head is he who dreads killing.

- 326 Life-eating-Death shall spare the breath
Of him who no life puts to death.

- 327 Kill not life that others cherish
Even when your life must perish.

- 328 The gain of slaughter is a vice
Though deemed good in sacrifice.

- 329 Those who live by slaying are
Eaters of carrion bizarre!

- 330 The loathsome poor sickly and sore
Are killers stained by blood before.

1.3.10 Instability

- 331 The worst of follies it is told
The fleeting as lasting to hold.
- 332 Like a drama-crowd wealth gathers
Like passing show its pride too goes.
- 333 Wealth wanes away; but when it comes
Take care to do enduring things.
- 334 The showy day is but a saw
Your life, know that, to file and gnaw.
- 335 Ere tongue benumbs and hiccough comes
Rise up to do good deeds betimes.
- 336 One was yesterday; not today!
- 337 Man knows not his next moment
On crores of things he is intent.
- 338 The soul from body any day
Like bird from egg-shell flies away.
- 339 Death is like a slumber deep
And birth like waking from that sleep.
- 340 The life berthed in this body shows
A fixed home it never knows.

1.3.11 Renunciation

- 341 From what from what a man is free
From that, from that his torments flee.
- 342 Give up all to gain the True
And endless joys shall hence seek you.
- 343 Curb the senses five and renounce
The carving desires all at once.
- 344 To have nothing is law of vows
Having the least deludes and snares.
- 345 Why add to bonds while this body
Is too much for saints to be birth-free.

346 Who curbs the pride of I and mine
Gets a world rare for gods to gain.

347 Grief clings on and on to those
Who cling to bonds without release.

348 Who renounce all are free from care
Others suffer delusive snare.

349 Bondage cut off, rebirth is off
The world then seems instable stuff.

350 Bind Thyself to the unbound one
That binding breaks all bonds anon.

1.3.12 Truth-Consciousness

- 351 That error entails ignoble birth
Which deems vain things as things of worth.
- 352 Men of spotless pure insight
Enjoy delight devoid of night.
- 353 To doubtless minds whose heart is clear
More than earth heaven is near.
- 354 Knowledge of five senses is vain
Without knowing the Truth within.
- 355 Knowledge is truth of things to find
In every case of every kind.
- 356 Who learn and here the Truth discern
Enter the path of non-return.
- 357 One-minded sage sees inner-truth
He is free from thoughts of rebirth.
- 358 It is knowledge to know Self-Truth
And remove the folly of birth.
- 359 Know the Refuge; off with bondage
Be free from ills of thralldom, O sage.
- 360 Woes expire when lust, wrath, folly
Expire even to name, fully.

1.3.13 Curbing of Desire

361 Desire to all, always is seed
From which ceaseless births proceed.

362 If long thou must, long for non-birth
It comes by longing no more for earth.

363 No such wealth is here and there
As peerless wealth of non-desire.

364 To nothing crave is purity
That is the fruit of verity.

365 The free are those who desire not
The rest not free in bonds are caught.

366 Dread desire; Virtue is there
To every soul desire is snare!

367 Destroy desire; deliverance
Comes as much as you aspire hence.

368 Desire extinct no sorrow-taints
Grief comes on grief where it pretends.

369 Desire, the woe of woes destroy
Joy of joys here you enjoy.

370 Off with desire insatiate
You gain the native blissful state.

1.4.1 Destiny

371 Efforts succeed by waxing star
Wealth-losing brings waning star.

372 Loss-fate makes a dull fool of us
Gain-fate makes us prosperous, wise!

373 What matters subtle study deep?
Levels of innate wisdom-keep.

374 Two natures in the world obtain
Some wealth and others wisdom gain.

375 In making wealth fate changes mood;
The good as bad and bad as good.

376 Things not thine never remain
Things destined are surely thine.

377 Who crores amass enjoy but what
The Dispenser's decrees allot.

378 The destitute desire will quit
If fate with ills visit them not.

379 Who good in time of good perceive
In evil time why should they grieve?

380 What power surpasses fate? Its will
Persists against the human skill.

Part 2 - Wealth

2.1 ROYALTY

2.1.1 The Grandeur of Monarchy

381 People, troops, wealth, forts, council, friends
Who owns these six is lion of kings.

382 Courage, giving, knowledge and zeal
Are four failless features royal.

383 Alertness, learning bravery
Are adjuncts three of monarchy.

384 A brave noble king refrains from vice
Full of virtue and enterprise.

385 The able king gets, stores and guards
And spends them for people's safeguards.

386 That land prospers where the king is
Easy to see, not harsh of words.

387 The world commends and acts his phrase
Who sweetly speaks and gives with grace.

388 He is the Lord of men who does
Sound justice and saves his race.

389 Under his shelter thrives the world
Who bears remarks bitter and bold.

390 He is the Light of Kings who has
Bounty, justice, care and grace.

2.1.2 Education

391 Lore worth learning, learn flawlessly
Live by that learning thoroughly.

392 Letter, number, art and science
Of living kind both are the eyes.

393 The learned alone have eyes on face
The ignorant two sores of disgrace.

394 To meet with joy and part with thought
Of learned men this is the art.

395 Like poor before rich they yearn:
For knowledge: the low never learn.

396 As deep you dig the sand spring flows
As deep you learn the knowledge grows.

397 All lands and towns are learner's own
Why not till death learning go on!

398 The joy of learning in one birth
Exalts man upto his seventh.

399 The learned foster learning more
On seeing the world enjoy their lore.

400 Learning is wealth none could destroy
Nothing else gives genuine joy.

2.1.3 Non - Learning

401 Like play of chess on squareless board
Vain is imperfect loreless word.

402 Unlearned man aspiring speech
Is breastless lady's love-approach.

403 Ev'n unread men are good and wise
If before the wise, they hold their peace.

404 The unread's wit though excellent
Is not valued by the savant.

405 A man untaught when speech he vaunts
Sadly fails before savants.

406 People speak of untaught minds
"They just exist like barren lands".

407 Like painted clay-doll is his show
Grand subtle lore who fails to know.

408 Wealth in the hand of fools is worse
Than a learned man's empty purse.

409 Lower are fools of higher birth
Than low-born men of learning's worth.

410 Like beasts before men, dunces are
Before scholars of shining lore.

2.1.4 Listening

411 Wealth of wealths is listening's wealth
It is the best of wealths on earth.

412 Some food for the stomach is brought
When the ear gets no food for thought.

413 Whose ears get lots of wisdom-food
Equal gods on oblations fed.

414 Though not learned, hear and heed
That serves a staff and stay in need.

415 Virtuous men's wisdom is found
A strong staff on slippery ground.

416 Lend ear to good words however few
That much will highly exalt you.

417 Who listen well and learn sharply
Not ev'n by slip speak foolishly.

418 That ear though hearing is dulled
Which is not by wisdom drilled.

419 A modest mouth is hard for those
Who care little to counsels wise.

420 Who taste by mouth and not by ear
What if they fare ill or well here?

2.1.5 Possession of Wisdom

421 Wisdom's weapon wards off all woes
It is a fort defying foes.

422 Wisdom checks the straying senses
Expels evils, impels goodness.

423 To grasp the Truth from everywhere
From everyone is wisdom fair.

424 Speaking out thoughts in clear trends
Wisdom subtle sense comprehends.

425 The wise-world the wise befriend
They bloom nor gloom, equal in mind.

426 As moves the world so move the wise
In tune with changing times and ways.

427 The wise foresee what is to come
The unwise lack in that wisdom.

428 Fear the frightful and act wisely
Not to fear the frightful's folly.

429 No frightful evil shocks the wise
Who guard themselves against surprise.

430 Who have wisdom they are all full
Whatev'r they own, misfits are nil.

2.1.6 Avoiding Faults

431 Plenty is their prosperity
Who're free from wrath pride lust petty.

432 Mean pride, low pleasure, avarice
These add blemishes to a prince.

433 Though millet-small their faults might seem
Men fearing disgrace, Palm-tall deem.

434 Watch like treasure freedom from fault
Our fatal foe is that default.

435 Who fails to guard himself from flaw
Loses his life like flame-lit straw.

436 What fault can be the king's who cures
First his faults, then scans others.

437 That miser's wealth shall waste and end
Who would not for a good cause spend.

438 The gripping greed of miser's heart
Is more than fault the worst apart.

439 Never boast yourself in any mood
Nor do a deed that does no good.

440 All designs of the foes shall fail
If one his wishes guards in veil.

2.1.7 Gaining Great Men's Help

441 Weigh their worth and friendship gain
Of men of virtue and mature brain.

442 Cherish the help of men of skill
Who ward and safe-guard you from ill.

443 Honour and have the great your own
Is rarest of the rare things known.

444 To have betters as intimates
Power of all powers promotes.

445 Ministers are the monarch's eyes
Round him should be the right and wise.

446 To move with worthy friends who knows
Has none to fear from frightful foes.

447 No foe can foil his powers
whose friends reprove him when he errs.

448 The careless king whom none reproves
Ruins himself sans harmful foes.

449 No capital, no gain in trade
No prop secure sans good comrade.

450 To give up good friends is ten times worse
Than being hated by countless foes.

2.1.8 Avoiding Mean Company

451 The ignoble the noble fear
The mean hold them as kinsmen dear.

452 With soil changes water's taste
With mates changes the mental state.

453 Wisdom depends upon the mind
The worth of man upon his friend.

454 Wisdom seems to come from mind
But it truly flows from the kind.

455 Purity of the thought and deed
Comes from good company indeed.

456 Pure-hearted get good progeny
Pure friendship acts with victory.

457 Goodness of mind increases gain
Good friendship fosters fame again.

458 Men of wisdom, though good in mind
In friends of worth a new strength find.

459 Good mind decides the future bliss
Good company gains strength to this.

460 No help good company exceeds;
The bad to untold anguish leads.

4.1.9 Deliberation Before Action

461 Weigh well output the loss and gain
And proper action ascertain.

462 Nothing is hard for him who acts
With worthy counsels weighing facts.

463 The wise risk not their capital
In doubtful gains and lose their all.

464 They who scornful reproach fear
Commence no work not made clear.

465 Who marches without plans and ways
His field is sure to foster foes.

466 Doing unfit action ruins
Failing fit-act also ruins.

467 Think and dare a proper deed
Dare and think is bad in need.

468 Toil without a plan ahead
Is doomed to fall though supported.

469 Attune the deeds to habitude
Or ev'n good leads to evil feud.

470 Do deeds above reproachfulness
The world refutes uncomely mess.

2.1.10 Judging Strength

471 Judge act and might and foeman's strength
The allies' strength and go at length.

472 Nothing hampers the firm who know
What they can and how to go.

473 Many know not their meagre might
Their pride breaks up in boastful fight.

474 Who adapts not, outsteps measure
And brags himself-his fall is sure.

475 Even the gentle peacock's plume
Cart's axle breaks by gross volume.

476 Beyond the branches' tip who skips
Ends the life as his body rips.

477 Know the limit; grant with measure
This way give and guard your treasure.

478 The outflow must not be excess
No matter how small income is.

479 Who does not know to live in bounds
His life seems rich but thins and ends.

480 Wealth amassed quickly vanishes
Sans level if one lavishes.

2.1.11 Knowing Proper Time

481 By day the crow defeats the owl
Kings need right time their foes to quell.

482 Well-ordered seasoned act is cord
That fortune binds in bon accord.

483 What is hard for him who acts
With proper means and time and tacts?

484 Choose proper time and act and place
Even the world you win with ease.

485 Who want to win the world sublime
Wait unruffled biding their time.

486 By self-restraint stalwarts keep fit
Like rams retreating but to butt.

487 The wise jut not their vital fire
They watch their time with hidden ire.

488 Bear with hostiles when you meet them
Fell down their head in fateful time.

489 When comes the season ripe and rare
Dare and do hard things then and there.

490 In waiting time feign peace like stork
In fighting time strike like its peck.

2.1.12 Judging The Place

491 No action take, no foe despise
Until you have surveyed the place.

492 Many are gains of fortresses
Ev'n to kings of power and prowess.

493 Weaklings too withstand foe's offence
In proper fields of strong defence.

494 If fighters fight in vantage field
The plans of foes shall be baffled.

495 In water crocodile prevails
In land before others it fails.

496 Sea-going ship goes not on shore
Nor on sea the strong-wheeled car.

497 No aid but daring dash they need
When field is chosen right for deed.

498 Though force is small, if place is right
One quells a foe of well-armed might.

499 To face a foe at home is vain
Though fort and status are not fine.

500 A fox can kill a war tusk
Fearless with feet in deep quagmire.

2.1.13 Testing Of Men For Confidence

- 501 Pleasure, gold, fear of life Virtue-
Test by these four and trust the true.
- 502 Spotless name of noble birth
Shamed of stain-that choice is worth.
- 503 Though deep scholars of stainless sense
Rare is freedom from ignorance.
- 504 Good and evil in man weigh well
Judge him by virtues which prevail.
- 505 By the touchstone of deeds is seen
If any one is great or mean.
- 506 Choose not those men without kinsmen
Without affine or shame of sin.
- 507 On favour leaning fools you choose;
Folly in all its forms ensues.
- 508 To trust an untried stranger brings
Endless troubles on all our kins.
- 509 Trust not without testing and then
Find proper work for trusted men.
- 510 Trust without test; The trusted doubt;
Both entail troubles in and out.

2.1.14 Testing And Entrusting

- 511 Employ the wise who will discern
The good and bad and do good turn.
- 512 Let him act who resource swells;
Fosters wealth and prevents ills.
- 513 Trust him in whom these four you see:
Love, wit, non-craving, clarity.
- 514 Though tried and found fit, yet we see
Many differ before duty.
- 515 Wise able men with power invest
Not by fondness but by hard test.

- 516 Discern the agent and the deed
And just in proper time proceed.
- 517 This work, by this, this man can do
Like this entrust the duty due.
- 518 His fitness for the duty scan
Leave him to do the best he can.
- 519 Who do duty for duty's sake
Doubt them; and fortune departs quick.
- 520 Worker straight the world is straight
The king must look to this aright.

2.1.15 Cherishing Kinsmen

- 521 Let fortunes go; yet kinsmen know
The old accustomed love to show.
- 522 The gift of loving Kins bestows
Fadeless fortune's fresh flowers.
- 523 A kinless wealth is like a tank
Which overflows without a bank.
- 524 The fruit of growing wealth is gained
When kith and kin are happy found.
- 525 Loving words and liberal hand
Encircle kith and kin around.
- 526 Large giver and wrathless man
Commands on earth countless kinsmen.
- 527 The crows hide not; thy call and eat
Welfare abides a man of heart.
- 528 From public gaze when kings perceive
Each one's merits so many thrive.
- 529 Forsaken friends will come and stay
When cause for discord goes away.
- 530 Who leaves and returns with motive
The king should test him and receive.

2.1.16 Unforgetfulness

531 Worse than wrath in excess is
Forgetfulness in joy-excess.

532 Negligence kills renown just as
Ceaseless want wisdom destroys.

533 Forgetful nature fails of fame
All schools of thinkers say the same.

534 The fearful find no fortress here
The forgetful find good never.

535 Failing foresight the guardless man
Shall rue his folly later on.

536 Forget none; watch with wakeful care
Miss none; the gain is sans compare.

537 With cautious care pursue a thing
Impossible there is nothing.

538 Do what the wise commend as worth
If not, for seven births no mirth.

539 When joy deludes, their fate recall
Whom negligence has made to fall.

540 Easy it is a thing to get
When the mind on it is set.

2.1.17 Just Government

541 Test and attest impartially
Consult and act the laws justly.

542 The earth looks up to sky and thrives
And mankind to king's rod of justice.

543 The Sage's scripture and virtue spring
From the sceptre of a stately king.

544 The world clings to the ruler's feet
Whose sceptre clasps the people's heart.

545 Full rains and yields enrich the land
Which is ruled by a righteous hand.

546 Not the spear but the sceptre straight
That brings success to monarch's might.

547 The king protects the entire earth
And justice protects his royal worth.

548 Hard of access, the unjust king
He shall himself his ruin bring.

549 Save his subjects and chide the wrong
Is flawless duty of a king.

550 Killing killers, the king, behold
Weeds removes from cropful field.

2.1.18 Cruel Tyranny

551 The unjust tyrant oppressor
Is worse than cruel murderer.

552 Sceptered tyrant exacting gold
Is "give" of lanced robber bold.

553 Spy wrongs daily and do justice
Or day by day the realm decays.

554 The king shall wealth and subjects lose
If his sceptre he dares abuse.

555 Groaning tears caused by tyrant's sway
File the royal wealth away.

556 Glory endures by sceptre right
Without it wanes the royal light.

557 Dry like the earth without rainfall
Is graceless king to creatures all.

558 To have is worse than having not
If ruler is unjust despot.

559 The sky withdraws season's shower
If the king misuses his power.

560 The six-functioned[†] forget their lore
Cows give less if kings guard no more.

[†] The six functions are: learning, teaching, giving,
getting, sacrificing, kindling sacrifice.
These are duties of Vedic savants.

2.1.19 Avoiding Terrorism

561 A king enquires and gives sentence
Just to prevent future offence.

562 Wield fast the rod but gently lay
This strict mildness prolongs the sway.

563 His cruel rod of dreadful deed
Brings king's ruin quick indeed.

564 As men the king a tyrant call
His days dwindled, hasten his fall.

565 Whose sight is scarce, whose face is foul
His wealth seems watched by a ghoul.

566 Whose word is harsh, whose sight is rude
His wealth and power quickly fade.

567 Reproofs rough and punishments rude
Like files conquering power corrode.

568 The king who would not take counsels
Rages with wrath-his fortune fails.

569 The king who builds not fort betimes
Fears his foes in wars and dies.

570 The crushing burden borne by earth
Is tyrants bound to fools uncouth.

2.1.20 Benign Looks

571 Living in the world implies
The bounteous dame of benign eyes.

572 World lives by looks of lovely worth
Who lack them are burdens of earth.

573 Of tuneless song what is the use?
Without gracious looks what are eyes?

574 Except that they are on the face
What for are eyes sans measured grace.

575 Kind looks are jewels for eyes to wear
Without them they are felt as sore.

576 Like trees on inert earth they grow
Who don't eye to eye kindness show.

577 Ungracious men lack real eyes
Men of real eyes show benign grace.

578 Who gracious are but dutiful
Have right for this earth beautiful.

579 To be benign and bear with foes
Who vex us is true virtue's phase.

580 Men of graceful courtesy
Take hemlock and look cheerfully.

2.1.21 Espionage

581 A king should treat these two as eyes
The code of laws and careful spies.

582 All that happens, always, to all
The king should know in full detail.

583 Conquests are not for the monarch
Who cares not for the Spy's remark.

584 His officers, kinsmen and foes
Who watch keenly are worthy spies.

585 Fearless gaze, suspectless guise
Guarding secrets mark the spies.

586 Guised as monks they gather secrets
They betray them not under threats.

587 A spy draws out other's secrets
Beyond a doubt he clears his facts.

588 The reports given by one spy
By another spy verify.

589 Engage the spies alone, apart
When three agree confirm report.

590 Give not the spy open reward
It would divulge the secret heard!

2.1.22 Energy

591 To own is to own energy

All others own but lethargy.

592 Psychic heart is wealth indeed

Worldly wealth departs in speed.

593 The strong in will do not complain

The loss of worldly wealth and gain.

594 Fortune enquires, enters with boom

Where tireless strivers have their home.

595 Water depth is lotus height

Mental strength is men's merit.

596 Let thoughts be always great and grand

Though they fail their virtues stand.

597 Elephants are firm when arrows hit

Great minds keep fit ev'n in defeat.

598 Heartless persons cannot boast

"We are liberal to our best".

599 Huge elephant sharp in tusk quails

When tiger, less in form, assails.

600 Mental courage is true manhood

Lacking that man is like a wood.

2.1.23 Freedom From Sloth

601 Quenchless lamp of ancestry goes

When foul idleness encloses.

602 To make your home an ideal home

Loath sloth as sloth; refuse it room.

603 The fool who fosters sluggishness

Before he dies ruins his house.

604 Who strive not high, sunk deep in sloth

Ruin their house by evil growth.

605 To lag, forget, idle and doze

These four are pleasure boats of loss.

606 With all the wealth of lords of earth

The slothful gain nothing of worth.

607 The slothful lacking noble deeds

Subject themselves to scornful words.

608 If sloth invades a noble house

It will become a slave of foes.

609 The blots on race and rule shall cease

When one from sloth gets his release.

610 The slothless king shall gain en masse[†]

All regions trod by Lord apace.

[†] Hindu mythology holds that Lord Vishnu measured with his feet the three worlds.

2.1.24 Manly Effort

611 Feel not frustrate saying "Tis hard".

Who tries attains striving's reward.

612 In doing work don't break and shirk

The world will quit who quits his work.

613 On excellence of industry

Depends magnanimous bounty.

614 Bounty of man who never strives

Like sword in eunuch's hand it fails.

615 Work who likes and not pleasure

Wipes grief of friends, pillar secure.

616 Industry adds prosperity

Indolence brings but poverty.

617 Illuck abides with sloth they say

Laxmi's[†] gifts with labourers stay.

[†] Laxmi the Goddess of wealth and prosperity

618 Misfortune is disgrace to none

The shame is nothing learnt or done.

619 Though fate is against fulfilment

Hard labour has ready payment.

620 Tireless Toiler's striving hand

Shall leave even the fate behind.

2.1.25 Hope In Mishap

- 621 Laugh away troubles; there is
No other way to conquer woes.
- 622 Deluging sorrows come to nought
When wise men face them with firm thought.
- 623 Grief they face and put to grief
Who grieve not grief by mind's relief.
- 624 Who pulls like bulls patiently on
Causes grief to grieve anon.
- 625 Before the brave grief grieves and goes
Who dare a host of pressing woes.
- 626 The wise that never gloat in gain
Do not fret in fateful ruin.
- 627 The wise worry no more of woes
Knowing body's butt of sorrows.
- 628 Who seek not joy, deem grief norm
By sorrows do not come to harm.
- 629 In joy to joy who is not bound
In grief he grieves not dual round!
- 630 His glory is esteemed by foes
Who sees weal in wanton woes!

2.2 STATE CABINET

2.2.1 Ministers

- 631 He is minister who chooses
Right means, time, mode and rare ventures.
- 632 With these he guards people, - by his
Knowledge, firmness and manliness.
- 633 A minister cherishes friends
Divides foes and the parted blends.
- 634 A minister must sift reflect
Select and say surely one fact.
- 635 Have him for help who virtue knows
Right wisdom speaks, ever apt in acts.

- 636 Which subtler brain can stand before
The keen in brain with learned love?
- 637 Albeit you know to act from books
Act after knowing world's outlooks.
- 638 The man in place must tell the facts
Though the ignorant king refutes.
- 639 Seventy crores of foes are better
Than a minister with mind bitter.
- 640 The unresolved, though well designed
To fulfil an act they have no mind.

2.2.2 Power of Speech

- 641 The goodness called goodness of speech
Is goodness which nothing can reach.
- 642 Since gain or ruin speeches bring
Guard against the slips of tongue.
- 643 A speech is speech that holds ears
And attracts ev'n those that are averse.
- 644 Weigh thy words and speak; because
No wealth or virtue words surpass.
- 645 Speak out thy world so that no word
Can win it and say untoward.
- 646 Spotless men speak what is sweet
And grasp in others what is meet.
- 647 No foe defies the speaker clear
Flawless, puissant, and free from fear.
- 648 The world will quickly carry out
The words of counsellors astute.
- 649 They overspeak who do not seek
A few and flawless words to speak.
- 650 Who can't express what they have learnt
Are bunch of flowers not fragrant.

2.2.3 Purity Of Action

651 Friendship brings gain; but action pure
Does every good thing we desire.

652 Eschew always acts that do not
Bring good nor glory on their part.

653 Those in the world desire for fame
Should shun the deed that dims their name.

654 Though perils press the faultless wise
Shun deeds of mean, shameful device.

655 Do not wrong act and grieve, "Alas"
If done, do not repeat it twice.

656 Though she who begot thee hungers
Shun acts denounced by ancient seers.

657 Pinching poverty of the wise
Is more than wealth hoarded by Vice.

658 Those who dare a forbidden deed
Suffer troubles though they succeed.

659 Gains from weeping, weeping go
Though lost, from good deeds blessings flow.

660 The wealth gathered in guilty ways
Is water poured in wet clay vase.

2.2.4 Powerful Acts

661 A powerful mind does powerful act
And all the rest are imperfect.

662 Shun failing fuss; fail not purpose
These two are maxims of the wise.

663 The strong achieve and then display
Woe unto work displayed midway.

664 Easy it is to tell a fact
But hard it is to know and act.

665 Dynamic deeds of a doughty soul
Shall win the praise of king and all.

666 The will-to-do achieves the deed
When mind that wills is strong indeed.

667 Scorn not the form: for men there are
Like linchpin of big rolling car.

668 Waver not; do wakefully
The deed resolved purposefully.

669 Do with firm will though pains beset
The deed that brings delight at last.

670 The world merits no other strength
But strength of will-to-do at length.

2.2.5 Modes of Action

671 When counsel takes a resolve strong
Weak delay of action is wrong.

672 Delay such acts as need delay
Delay not acts that need display.

673 It's best to act when feasible
If not see what is possible.

674 Work or foe left unfinished
Flare up like fire unextinguished.

675 Money and means, time, place and deed
Decide these five and then proceed.

676 Weigh well the end, hindrance, profit
And then pursue a fitting act.

677 Know first the secret from experts
That is the way of fruitful acts.

678 Lure a tuskier by a tuskier
Achieve a deed by deed better.

679 Than doing good to friends it is
More urgent to befriend the foes.

680 Small statesmen fearing people's fear
Submit to foes superior.

2.2.6 Embassy

- 681 Love, noble birth, good courtesy
Pleasing kings mark true embassy.
- 682 Envoys must bear love for their prince
Knowledge and learned eloquence.
- 683 Savant among savants, he pleads
Before lanced king, triumphant words.
- 684 Who has these three: good form, sense, lore
Can act as bold ambassador.
- 685 Not harsh, the envoy's winsome ways
Does good by pleasant words concise.
- 686 Learned; fearless, the envoy tends
Convincing words which time demands.
- 687 Knowing duty time and place
The envoy employs mature phrase.
- 688 The true envoy of three virtues
Is pure helpful and bold in views.
- 689 The envoy who ports the king's message
Has flawless words and heart's courage.
- 690 Braving death the bold envoy
Assures his king's safety and joy.

2.2.7 Walk With Kings

- 691 Move with hostile kings as with fire
Not coming close nor going far.
- 692 Crave not for things which kings desire
This brings thee their fruitful favour.
- 693 Guard thyself from petty excess
Suspected least, there's no redress.
- 694 Whisper not; nor smile exchange
Amidst august men's assemblage.
- 695 Hear not, ask not the king's secret
Hear only when he lets it out.

- 696 Discern his mood and time and tell
No dislikes but what king likes well.
- 697 Tell pleasing things; and never tell
Even if pressed what is futile.
- 698 As young and kinsman do not slight;
Look with awe king's light and might.
- 699 The clear-visioned do nothing base
Deeming they have the monarch's grace.
- 700 Worthless acts based on friendship old
Shall spell ruin and woe untold.

2.2.8 Divining The Mind

- 701 Who reads the mind by look, untold
Adorns the changeless sea-girt world.
- 702 Take him as God who reads the thought
Of another man with without a doubt.
- 703 By sign who scans the sign admit
At any cost in cabinet.
- 704 Untold, he who divines the thought
Though same in form is quite apart.
- 705 Among senses what for is eye
If thought by thought one can't descry?
- 706 What throbs in mind the face reflects
Just as mirror nearby objects.
- 707 Than face what is subtler to tell
First if the mind feels well or ill.
- 708 Just standing in front would suffice
For those who read the mind on face.
- 709 Friend or foe the eyes will show
To those who changing outlooks know.
- 710 The scale of keen discerning minds
Is eye and eye that secrets finds.

2.2.9 Judging The Audience

711 The pure in thought and eloquence
Adapt their words to audience.

712 Who know the art of speech shall suit
Their chosen words to time in fact.

713 They speak in vain at length who talk
Words unversed which ears don't take.

714 Before the bright be brilliant light
Before the muff be mortar white.

715 Modest restraint all good excels
Which argues not before elders.

716 Tongue-slip before the talented wise
Is like slipping from righteous ways.

717 The learning of the learned shines
Valued by flawless scholar-minds.

718 To address understanding ones
Is to water beds of growing grains.

719 O ye who speak before the keen
Forgetful, address not the mean.

720 To hostiles who wise words utters
Pours ambrosia into gutters.

2.2.10 Courage Before Councils

721 The pure fail not in power of words
Knowing grand council's moods and modes.

722 Among scholars he is scholar
Who holds scholars with learned lore.

723 Many brave foes and die in fields
The fearless few face wise councils.

724 Impress the learned with your lore
From greater savants learn still more.

725 Grammar and logic learn so that
Foes you can boldly retort.

726 To cowards what can sword avail
And books to those who councils fail?

727 Like eunuch's sword in field, is vain
His lore who fears men of brain.

728 Though learned much his lore is dead
Who says no good before the good.

729 Who fear to face good assembly
Are learned idiots, certainly.

730 They are breathing dead who dare not
Empress before the wise their art.

2.3 POLITICS

2.3.1 The Country

731 It's country which has souls of worth
Unfailing yields and ample wealth.

732 The Land has large luring treasure
Where pests are nil and yields are sure.

733 It's land that bears pressing burdens
And pays its tax which king demands.

734 It is country which is free from
Fierce famine, plague and foemen's harm.

735 Sects and ruinous foes are nil
No traitors in a land tranquil.

736 The land of lands no ruin knows
Even in grief its wealth yet grows.

737 Waters up and down, hills and streams
With strong forts as limbs country beams.

738 Rich yield, delight, defence and wealth
Are jewels of lands with blooming health.

739 A land is land which yields unsought
Needing hard work the land is nought.

740 Though a land has thus every thing
It is worthless without a king.

2.3.2 Fortress

741 The fort is vital for offence
Who fear the foes has its defence.

742 A crystal fount, a space a mount
Thick woods form a fort paramount.

743 An ideal fort's so says science:
High, broad, strong and hard for access.

744 Ample in space, easy to hold
The fort foils enemies bold.

745 Impregnable with stores of food
Cosy to live-That fort is good.

746 A fort is full of stores and arms
And brave heroes to meet alarms.

747 Besieging foes a fort withstands
Darts and mines of treacherous hands.

748 A fort holds itself and defies
The attacks of encircling foes.

749 A fort it is that fells the foes
And gains by deeds a name glorious.

750 But a fort however grand
Is nil if heroes do not stand.

2.3.3 Ways Of Making Wealth

751 Naught exists that can, save wealth
Make the worthless as men of worth.

752 The have-nothing poor all despise
The men of wealth all raise and praise.

753 Waneless wealth is light that goes
To every land and gloom removes.

754 The blameless wealth from fairest means
Brings good virtue and also bliss.

755 Riches devoid of love and grace
Off with it; it is disgrace!

756 Escheats, derelicts; spoils of war
Taxes duties are king's treasure.

757 Grace the child of love is nourished
By the wet-nurse of wealth cherished.

758 Treasures in hand fulfil all things
Like hill-tuskers the wars of kings.

759 Make wealth; there is no sharper steel
The insolence of foes to quell.

760 They have joy and virtue at hand
Who acquire treasures abundant.

2.3.4 The Glory of Army

761 The daring well-armed winning force
Is king's treasure and main resource.

762 Through shots and wounds brave heroes hold
Quailing not in fall, the field.

763 Sea-like ratfoes roar ... What if?
They perish at a cobra's whiff.

764 The army guards its genial flame
Not crushed, routed nor marred in name.

765 The real army with rallied force
Resists even Death-God fierce.

766 Manly army has merits four:-
Stately-march, faith, honour, valour.

767 Army sets on to face to foes
Knowing how the trend of war goes.

768 Army gains force by grand array
Lacking in stay or dash in fray.

769 Army shall win if it is free
From weakness, aversion, poverty.

770 With troops in large numbers on rolls
Army can't march missing gen'als.

2.3.5 Military Pride

771 Stand not before my chief, O foes!
Many who stood, in stones repose.

772 To lift a lance that missed a tusker
Is prouder than shaft that hit a hare.

773 Valour is fight with fierce courage
Mercy to the fallen is its edge.

774 At the tusker he flings his lance
One in body smiles another chance.

775 When lances dart if heroes wink
"It is a rout" the world will think.

776 The brave shall deem the days as vain
Which did not battle-wounds sustain.

777 Their anklets aloud jingle their name
Who sacrifice their life for fame.

778 The king may chide, they pursue strife;
They fear loss of glory; not life.

779 Who will blame the heroes that lose
Their lives in war to keep their vows?

780 Such a death shall be prayed for
Which draws the the tears of the ruler.

2.3.6 Friendship

781 Like friendship what's so hard to gain?
That guards one against acts villain?

782 Good friendship shines like waxing moon,
The bad withers like waning moon.

783 Like taste in books good friendship grows
The more one moves the more he knows.

784 Not to laugh is friendship made
But to hit when faults exceed.

785 No close living nor clasping grip
Friendship's feeling heart's fellowship.

786 Friendship is not more smile on face
It is the smiling heart's embrace.

787 From ruin friendship saves and shares
The load of pain and right path shows.

788 Friendship hastens help in mishaps
Like hands picking up dress that slips.

789 Friendship is enthroned on the strength
That always helps with utmost warmth.

790 "Such we are and such they are!"
Ev'n this boast will friendship mar.

2.3.7 Testing Friendship

791 Than testless friendship nought is worse
For contacts formed will scarcely cease.

792 Friendship made without frequent test
Shall end in grief and death at last.

793 Temper, descent, defects and kins
Trace well and take companions.

794 Take as good friend at any price
The nobly born who shun disgrace.

795 Who make you weep and chide wrong trends
And lead you right are worthy friends.

796 Is there a test like misfortune
A rod to measure out kinsmen?

797 Keep off contacts with fools; that is
The greatest gain so say the wise.

798 Off with thoughts that depress the heart
Off with friends that in woe depart.

799 Friends who betray at ruin's brink
Burn our mind ev'n at death to think.

800 The blameless ones as friends embrace;
Give something and give up the base.

2.3.8 Intimacy

- 801 That friendship is good amity
Which restrains not one's liberty.
- 802 Friendship's heart is freedom close;
Wise men's duty is such to please.
- 803 Of long friendship what is the use
Righteous freedom if men refuse?
- 804 Things done unasked by loving friends
Please the wise as familiar trends!
- 805 Offence of friends feel it easy
As folly or close intimacy.
- 806 They forsake not but continue
In friendship's bounds though loss ensue.
- 807 Comrades established in firm love
Though ruin comes waive not their vow.
- 808 Fast friends who list not tales of ill
Though wronged they say "that day is well".
- 809 To love such friends the world desires
Whose friendship has unbroken ties.
- 810 Even foes love for better ends
Those who leave not long-standing friends.

2.3.9 Bad Friendship

- 811 Swallowing love of soulless men
Had better wane than wax anon.
- 812 Who fawn in wealth and fail in dearth
Gain or lose; such friends have no worth.
- 813 Cunning friends who calculate
Are like thieves and whores wicked.
- 814 Better be alone than trust in those
That throw in field like faithless horse.
- 815 Friends low and mean that give no help-
Leave them is better than to keep.

- 816 Million times the wise man's hate
Is better than a fool intimate.
- 817 Ten-fold more you gain from foes
Than from friends who are vain laughers.
- 818 Without a word those friends eschew
Who spoil deeds which they can do.
- 819 Even in dreams the tie is bad
With those whose deed is far from word.
- 820 Keep aloof from those that smile
At home and in public revile.

2.3.10 False Friendship

- 821 The friendship by an enemy shown
Is anvil in time, to strike you down.
- 822 Who pretend kinship but are not
Their friendship's fickle like woman's heart.
- 823 They may be vast in good studies
But heartfelt-love is hard for foes.
- 824 Fear foes whose face has winning smiles
Whose heart is full of cunning guiles.
- 825 Do not trust in what they tell
Whose mind with your mind goes ill.
- 826 The words of foes is quickly seen
Though they speak like friends in fine.
- 827 Trust not the humble words of foes
Danger darts from bending bows.
- 828 Adoring hands of foes hide arms
Their sobbing tears have lurking harms.
- 829 In open who praise, at heart despise
Cajole and crush them in friendly guise.
- 830 When foes, in time, play friendship's part
Feign love on face but not in heart.

2.3.11 Folly

- 831 This is folly's prominent vein
To favour loss and forego gain.
- 832 Folly of follies is to lead
A lewd and lawless life so bad.
- 833 Shameless, aimless, callous, listless
Such are the marks of foolishness.
- 834 No fool equals the fool who learns
Knows, teaches, but self-control spurns.
- 835 The fool suffers seven fold hells
In single birth of hellish ills.
- 836 A know-nothing fool daring a deed
Not only fails but feels fettered.
- 837 Strangers feast and kinsmen fast
When fools mishandle fortunes vast.
- 838 Fools possessing something on hand
Like dazed and drunken stupids stand.
- 839 Friendship with fools is highly sweet
For without a groan we part.
- 840 Entrance of fools where Savants meet
Looks like couch trod by unclean feet.

2.3.12 Petty Conceit

- 841 Want of wisdom is want of wants
Want of aught else the world nev'r counts.
- 842 When fool bestows with glee a gift
It comes but by getter's merit.
- 843 The self-torments of fools exceed
Ev'n tortures of their foes indeed.
- 844 Stupidity is vanity
That cries "We have sagacity"
- 845 Feigning knowledge that one has not
Leads to doubt ev'n that he has got.

- 846 Fools their nakedness conceal
And yet their glaring faults reveal.
- 847 The fool that slights sacred counsels
Upon himself great harm entails.
- 848 He listens not nor himself knows
Plague is his life until it goes.
- 849 Sans Self-sight in vain one opens Sight
To the blind who bet their sight as right.
- 850 To people's "Yes" who proffer "No"
Deemed as ghouls on earth they go.

2.3.13 Hatred

- 851 Hatred is a plague that divides
And rouses illwill on all sides.
- 852 Rouse not hatred and confusion
Though foes provoke disunion.
- 853 Shun the plague of enmity
And win everlasting glory.
- 854 Hate-the woe of woes destroy;
Then joy of joys you can enjoy.
- 855 Who can overcome them in glory
That are free from enmity?
- 856 His fall and ruin are quite near
Who holds enmity sweet and dear.
- 857 They cannot see the supreme Truth
Who hate and injure without ruth.
- 858 To turn from enmity is gain
Fomenting it brings fast ruin.
- 859 Fortune favours when hate recedes
Hatred exceeding ruin breeds.
- 860 All evils come from enmity
All goodness flow from amity.

2.3.14 Noble Hostility

861 Turn from strife with foes too strong
With the feeble for battle long.

862 Loveless, aidless, powerless king
Can he withstand an enemy strong?

863 Unskilled, timid, miser, misfit
He is easy for foes to hit.

864 The wrathful restive man is prey
To any, anywhere any day.

865 Crooked, cruel, tactless and base
Any foe can fell him with ease.

866 Blind in rage and mad in lust
To have his hatred is but just.

867 Pay and buy his enmity
Who muddles chance with oddity.

868 With no virtue but full of vice
He loses friends and delights foes.

869 The joy of heroes knows no bounds
When timid fools are opponents.

870 Glory's light he will not gain
Who fails to fight a fool and win.

2.3.15 Appraising Enemies

871 Let not one even as a sport
The ill-natured enmity court.

872 Incur the hate of bow-ploughers
But not the hate of word-ploughers.

873 Forlorn, who rouses many foes
The worst insanity betrays.

874 This world goes safely in his grace
Whose heart makes friends even of foes.

875 Alone, if two foes you oppose
Make one of them your ally close.

876 Trust or distrust; during distress
Keep aloof; don't mix with foes.

877 To those who know not, tell not your pain
Nor your weakness to foes explain.

878 Know how and act and defend well
The pride of enemies shall fall.

879 Cut off thorn-trees when young they are;
Grown hard, they cut your hands beware.

880 To breathe on earth they are not fit
Defying foes who don't defeat.

2.3.16 Secret Foe

881 Traitorous kinsmen will make you sad
As water and shade do harm when bad.

882 You need not sword-like kinsmen fear
Fear foes who feign as kinsmen dear.

883 The secret foe in days evil
Will cut you, beware, like potters' steel.

884 The evil-minded foe within
Foments trouble, spoils kinsmen!

885 A traitor among kinsmen will
Bring life-endangering evil.

886 Discord in kings' circle entails
Life-destroying deadly evils.

887 A house hiding hostiles in core
Just seems on like the lid in jar.

888 By secret spite the house wears out
Like gold crumbling by file's contact.

889 Ruin lurks in enmity
As slit in sesame though it be.

890 Dwell with traitors that hate in heart
Is dwelling with snake in selfsame hut.

2.3.17 Offend Not the Great

- 891 Not to spite the mighty ones
Safest safeguard to living brings.
- 892 To walk unmindful of the great
Shall great troubles ceaseless create.
- 893 Heed not and do, if ruin you want
Offence against the mighty great.
- 894 The weak who insult men of might
Death with their own hands invite.
- 895 Where can they go and thrive where
Pursued by powerful monarch's ire?
- 896 One can escape in fire caught
The great who offends escapes not.
- 897 If holy mighty sages frown
Stately gifts and stores who can own?
- 898 When hill-like sages are held small
The firm on earth lose home and all.
- 899 Before the holy sage's rage
Ev'n Indra's empire meets damage.
- 900 Even mighty aided men shall quail
If the enraged holy seers will.

2.3.18 Being Led By Women

- 901 Who dote on wives lose mighty gain
That lust, dynamic men disdain.
- 902 Who dotes, unmanly, on his dame
His wealth to him and all is shame.
- 903 Who's servile to his wife always
Shy he feels before the wise.
- 904 Fearing his wife salvationless
The weaklings' action has no grace.
- 905 Who fears his wife fears always
Good to do to the good and wise.

- 906 Who fear douce arms of their wives
Look petty even with god-like lives.

- 907 Esteemed more is women bashful
Than man servile unto her will.

- 908 By fair-browed wives who are governed
Help no friends nor goodness tend.

- 909 No virtue riches nor joy is seen
In those who submit to women.

- 910 Thinkers strong and broad of heart
By folly on fair sex do not dote.

2.3.19 Wanton Women

- 911 For gold, not love their tongue cajoles
Men are ruined by bangled belles.

- 912 Avoid ill-natured whores who feign
Love only for their selfish gain.

- 913 The false embrace of whores is like
That of a damned corpse in the dark.

- 914 The wise who seek the wealth of grace
Look not for harlots' low embrace.

- 915 The lofty wise will never covet
The open charms of a vile harlot.

- 916 Those who guard their worthy fame
Shun the wanton's vaunting charm.

- 917 Hollow hearts alone desire
The arms of whores with hearts elsewhere.

- 918 Senseless fools are lured away
By arms of sirens who lead astray.

- 919 The soft jewelled arms of whores are hell
Into which the degraded fall.

- 920 Double-minded whores, wine and dice
Are lures of those whom fortune flies.

2.3.20 Not Drinking Liquor

- 921 Foes fear not who for toddy craze
The addicts daily their glory lose.
- 922 Drink not liquor; but let them drink
Whom with esteem the wise won't think.
- 923 The drunkard's joy pains ev'n mother's face
How vile must it look for the wise?
- 924 Good shame turns back from him ashamed
Who is guilty of wine condemned.
- 925 To pay and drink and lose the sense
Is nothing but rank ignorance.
- 926 They take poison who take toddy
And doze ev'n like a dead body.
- 927 The secret drunkards' senses off
Make the prying public laugh.
- 928 Don't say "I'm not a drunkard hard"
The hidden fraud is known abroad.
- 929 Can torch search one in water sunk?
Can reason reach the raving drunk?
- 930 The sober seeing the drunkard's plight
On selves can't they feel same effect?

2.3.21 Gambling

- 931 Avoid gambling, albeit you win
Gulping bait-hook what does fish gain?
- 932 Can gamblers in life good obtain
Who lose a hundred one to gain?
- 933 If kings indulge in casting dice
All their fortune will flow to foes.
- 934 Nothing will make you poor like game
Which adds to woes and ruins fame.
- 935 The game, game-hall and gambler's art
Who sought with glee have come to nought.

- 936 Men swallowed by the ogress, dice
Suffer grief and want by that vice.
- 937 If men their time in game-den spend
Ancestral wealth and virtues end.
- 938 Game ruins wealth and spoils grace
Leads to lies and wretched woes.
- 939 Dress, wealth, food, fame, learning-these five
In gambler's hand will never thrive.
- 940 Love for game grows with every loss
As love for life with sorrows grows.

2.3.22 Medicine

- 941 Wind, bile and phlegm three cause disease
So doctors deem it more or less.
- 942 After digestion one who feeds
His body no medicine needs.
- 943 Eat food to digestive measure
Life in body lasts with pleasure.
- 944 Know digestion; with keen appetite
Eat what is suitable and right.
- 945 With fasting adjusted food right
Cures ills of life and makes you bright
- 946 Who eats with clean stomach gets health
With greedy glutton abides ill-health.
- 947 who glut beyond the hunger's fire
Suffer from untold diseases here.
- 948 Test disease, its cause and cure
And apply remedy that is sure.
- 949 Let the skilful doctor note
The sickmen, sickness, season and treat.
- 950 Patient, doctor, medicine and nurse
Are four-fold codes of treating course.

2.4 MISCELLANEOUS

2.4.1 Nobility

951 Right-sense and bashfulness adorn
By nature only the noble-born.

952 The noble-born lack not these three:
Good conduct, truth and modesty.

953 Smile, gift, sweet words and courtesy
These four mark true nobility.

954 Even for crores, the noble mood
Cannot bend to degrading deed.

955 The means of gift may dwindle; yet
Ancient homes guard their noble trait.

956 Who guard their family prestige pure
Stoop not to acts of cunning lure.

957 The faults of nobly-born are seen
Like on the sky the spots of moon.

958 If manners of the good are rude
People deem their pedigree crude.

959 Soil's nature is seen in sprout
The worth of birth from words flow out.

960 All gain good name by modesty
Nobility by humility.

2.4.2 Honour

961 Though needed for your life in main,
From mean degrading acts refrain.

962 Who seek honour and manly fame
Don't do mean deeds even for name.

963 Be humble in prosperity
In decline uphold dignity.

964 Like hair fallen from head are those
Who fall down from their high status.

965 Even hill-like men will sink to nought
With abrus-grain-like small default.

966 Why fawn on men that scorn you here
It yields no fame, heaven's bliss neither.

967 Better it is to die forlorn
Than live as slaves of those who scorn.

968 Is nursing body nectar sweet
Even when one's honour is lost?

969 Honour lost, the noble expire
Like a yak that loses its hair.

970 Their light the world adores and hails
Who will not live when honour fails.

2.4.3 Greatness

971 A heart of courage lives in light
Devoid of that one's life is night.

972 All beings are the same in birth
But work decides their varied worth.

973 Ignoble high not high they are
The noble low not low they fare.

974 Greatness like woman's chastity
Is guarded by self-varacity.

975 Great souls when their will is active
Do mighty deeds rare to achieve.

976 The petty-natured ones have not
The mind to seek and befriend the great.

977 The base with power and opulence
Wax with deeds of insolence.

978 Greatness bends with modesty
Meanness vaunts with vanity.

979 Greatness is free from insolence
Littleness swells with that offence.

980 Weakness of others greatness screens
Smallness defects alone proclaims.

2.4.4 Sublimity

981 All goodness is duty to them
Who are dutiful and sublime.

982 Good in the great is character
Than that there is nothing better.

983 Love, truth, regard, modesty, grace
These five are virtue's resting place.

984 Not to kill is penance pure
Not to slander virtue sure.

985 Humility is valour's strength
A force that averts foes at length.

986 To bear repulse e'en from the mean
Is the touch-stone of worthy men.

987 Of perfection what is the gain
If it returns not joy for pain?

988 No shame there is in poverty
To one strong in good quality.

989 Aeons may change but not the seer
Who is a sea of virtue pure.

990 The world will not more bear its weight
If from high virtue fall the great.

2.4.5 Courtesy

991 To the polite free of access
Easily comes courteousness.

992 Humanity and noble birth
Develop courtesy and moral worth.

993 Likeness in limbs is not likeness
It's likeness in kind courteousness.

994 The world applauds those helpful men
Whose actions are just and benign.

995 The courteous don't even foes detest
For contempt offends even in jest.

996 The world rests with the mannered best
Or it crumbles and falls to dust.

997 The mannerless though sharp like file
Are like wooden blocks indocile.

998 Discourtesy is mean indeed
E'en to a base unfriendly breed.

999 To those bereft of smiling light
Even in day the earth is night.

1000 The wealth heaped by the churlish base
Is pure milk soured by impure vase.

2.4.6 Futile Wealth

1001 Dead is he with wealth in pile
Unenjoyed, it is futile.

1002 The niggard miser thinks wealth is all
He hoards, gives not is born devil.

1003 A burden he is to earth indeed
Who hoards without a worthy deed.

1004 What legacy can he leave behind
Who is for approach too unkind.

1005 What is the good of crores they hoard
To give and enjoy whose heart is hard.

1006 Great wealth unused for oneself nor
To worthy men is but a slur.

1007 Who loaths to help have-nots, his gold
Is like a spinster-belle grown old.

1008 The idle wealth of unsought men
Is poison-fruit-tree amidst a town.

1009 Others usurp the shining gold
In loveless, stingy, vicious hold.

1010 The brief want of the rich benign
Is like rainclouds growing thin.

2.4.7 Sensitiveness To Shame

IO11 To shrink from evil deed is shame

The rest is blush of fair-faced dame.

IO12 Food, dress and such are one for all

Modesty marks the higher soul.

IO13 All lives have their lodge in flesh

Perfection has its home in blush.

IO14 Shame is the jewel of dignity

Shameless swagger is vanity.

IO15 In them resides the sense of shame

Who blush for their and other's blame.

IO16 The great refuse the wonder-world

Without modesty's hedge and shield.

IO17 For shame their life the shame-sensed give

Loss of shame they won't outlive.

IO18 Virtue is much ashamed of him

Who shameless does what others shame.

IO19 Lapse in manners injures the race

Want of shame harms every good grace.

IO20 Movements of the shameless in heart

Are string-led puppet show in fact.

2.4.8 Promoting Family Welfare

IO21 No greatness is grander like

Saying "I shall work without slack".

IO22 These two exalt a noble home

Ardent effort and ripe wisdom.

IO23 When one resolves to raise his race

Loin girt up God leads his ways.

IO24 Who raise their races with ceaseless pain

No need for plan; their ends will gain.

IO25 Who keeps his house without a blame

People around, his kinship claim.

IO26 Who raise their race which gave them birth
Are deemed as men of manly worth.

IO27 Like dauntless heroes in battle field

The home-burden rests on the bold.

IO28 No season have they who raise their race

Sloth and pride will honour efface.

IO29 Is not his frame a vase for woes

Who from mishaps shields his house?

IO30 A house will fall by a mishap

With no good man to prop it up.

2.4.9 Farming

IO31 Farming though hard is foremost trade

Men ply at will but ploughmen lead.

IO32 Tillers are linch-pin of mankind

Bearing the rest who cannot tend.

IO33 They live who live to plough and eat

The rest behind them bow and eat.

IO34 Who have the shade of cornful crest

Under their umbra umbrellas rest.

IO35 Who till and eat, beg not; nought hide

But give to those who are in need.

IO36 Should ploughmen sit folding their hands

Desire-free monks too suffer wants.

IO37 Moulds dried to quarter-dust ensure

Rich crops without handful manure.

IO38 Better manure than plough; then weed;

Than irrigating, better guard.

IO39 If landsmen sit sans moving about

The field like wife will sulk and pout.

IO40 Fair good earth will laugh to see

Idlers pleading poverty.

2.4.10 Poverty

IO41 What gives more pain than scarcity?

No pain pinches like poverty.

IO42 The sinner Want is enemy dire

Of joys of earth and heaven there.

IO43 The craving itch of poverty

Kills graceful words and ancestry.

IO44 Want makes even good familymen

Utter words that are low and mean.

IO45 The pest of wanton poverty

Brings a train of misery.

IO46 The poor men's words are thrown away

Though from heart good things they say.

IO47 Even the mother looks as stranger

The poor devoid of character.

IO48 The killing Want of yesterday

Will it pester me even to-day?

IO49 One may sleep in the midst of fire

In want a wink of sleep is rare.

IO50 Renounce their lives the poor must

Or salt and gruel go to waste.

2.4.11 Asking

IO51 Demand from those who can supply

Default is theirs when they deny.

IO52 Even demand becomes a joy

When the things comes without annoy.

IO53 Request has charm form open hearts

Who know the duty on their part.

IO54 Like giving even asking seems

From those who hide not even in dreams.

IO55 The needy demand for help because

The world has men who don't refuse.

IO56 The pain of poverty shall die

Before the free who don't deny.

IO57 When givers without scorn impart

A thrill of delight fills the heart.

IO58 This grand cool world shall move to and fro

Sans Askers like a puppet show.

IO59 Where stands the glory of givers

Without obligation seekers?

IO60 The needy should not scowl at "No"

His need another's need must show.

† Saint valluvar talks of two kinds of Asking: -

(1) Asking help for public causes or enterprises.

(2) Begging when one is able to work and this is condemned.

2.4.12 Dread Of Beggary

IO61 Not to beg is billions worth

E'en from eye-like friends who give with mirth.

IO62 Let World-Maker loiter and rot

If "beg and live" be human fate.

IO63 Nothing is hard like hard saying

"We end poverty by begging".

IO64 All space is small before the great

Who beg not e'en in want acute.

IO65 Though gruel thin, nothing is sweet

Like the food earned by labour's sweat.

IO66 It may be water for the cow

Begging tongue is mean anyhow.

IO67 If beg they must I beg beggars

Not to beg from shrinking misers.

IO68 The hapless bark of beggary splits

On the rock of refusing hits.

IO69 The heart at thought of beggars melts;

It dies at repulsing insults.

IO70 The word "No" kills the begger's life

Where can the niggard's life be safe?

2.4.13 Meanness

IO71 The mean seem men only in form
We have never seen such a sham.

IO72 The base seem richer than the good
For no care enters their heart or head.

IO73 The base are like gods; for they too
As prompted by their desire do.

IO74 When the base meets a rake so vile
Him he will exceed, exult and smile.

IO75 Fear forms the conduct of the low
Craving avails a bit below.

IO76 The base are like the beaten drum
Since other's secrets they proclaim.

IO77 The base their damp hand will not shake
But for fists clenched their jaws to break.

IO78 The good by soft words profits yield
The cane-like base when crushed and killed.

IO79 Faults in others the mean will guess
On seeing how they eat and dress.

IO80 The base hasten to sell themselves
From doom to flit and nothing else.

Part 3 - Love

3.1 ON SECRET MARRIAGE

3.1.1 Beauty's Dart

IO81 Is it an angel? A fair peacock
Or jewelled belle? To my mind a shock!

IO82 The counter glances of this belle
Are armed dart of the Love-Angel.

IO83 Not known before - I spy Demise
In woman's guise with battling eyes.

IO84 This artless dame has darting eyes
That drink the life of men who gaze.

IO85 Is it death, eye or doe? All three
In winsome woman's look I see.

IO86 If cruel brows unbent, would screen
Her eyes won't cause me trembling pain.

IO87 Vest on the buxom breast of her
Looks like rutting tusker's eye-cover.

IO88 Ah these fair brows shatter my might
Feared by foemen yet to meet.

IO89 Which jewel can add to her beauty
With fawn-like looks and modesty?

IO90 To the drunk alone is wine delight
Nothing delights like love at sight.

3.1.2 Signs Speak the Heart

IO91 Her painted eyes, two glances dart
One hurts; the other heals my heart.

IO92 Her furtive lightning glance is more
Than enjoyment of sexual lore.

IO93 She looked; looking bowed her head
And love-plant was with water fed.

IO94 I look; she droops to earth awhile
I turn; she looks with gentle smile.

IO95 No direct gaze; a side-long glance
She darts at me and smiles askance.

IO96 Their words at first seem an offence
But quick we feel them friendly ones.

IO97 Harsh little words; offended looks,
Are feigned consenting love-lorn tricks.

IO98 What a grace the slim maid has!
As I look she slightly smiles.

IO99 Between lovers we do discern
A stranger's look of unconcern.

II00 The words of mouth are of no use
When eye to eye agrees the gaze.

3.1.3 Embrace-Bliss

II01 In this bangled beauty dwell
The joys of sight sound touch taste smell.

II02 The cure for ailment is somewhere
For fair maid's ill she is the cure.

II03 Is lotus-eyed lord's heaven so sweet
As sleep in lover's arms so soft?

II04 Away it burns and cools anear
Wherefrom did she get this fire?

II05 The arms of my flower-tressed maid
Whatever I wish that that accord.

II06 My simple maid has nectar arms
Each embrace brings life-thrilling charms.

II07 Ah the embrace of this fair dame
Is like sharing one's food at home.

II08 Joy is the fast embrace that doth
Not admit e'en air between both.

II09 Sulking, feeling and clasping fast
These three are sweets of lover's tryst.

IIIO As knowledge reveals past ignorance
So is the belle as love gets close.

3.1.4 Beauty Extolled

III1 Soft blessed anicha flower, hail
On whom I dote is softer still.

III2 You can't liken flowers by many eyed,
To her bright eyes, O mind dismayed.

III3 The bamboo-shouldered has pearl-like smiles
Fragrant breath and lance-like eyes.

III4 Lily droops down to ground and says
I can't equal the jewelled-one's eyes.

III5 Anicha flower with stem she wears
To her breaking waist sad-drum-blares!

III6 Stars are confused to know which is
The moon and which is woman's face.

III7 Are there spots on the lady's face
Just as in moon that changes phase?

III8 Like my lady's face if you shine
All my love to you; hail O moon!

III9 Like the face of my flower-eyed one
If you look, then shine alone O moon!

III20 The soft flower and the swan's down are
Like nettles to the feet of the fair.

3.1.5 Love's Excellence

II21 Like milk and honey the dew is sweet
From her white teeth whose word is soft.

II22 Love between me and this lady
Is like bond between soul and body.

II23 Depart image in my pupil
Giving room to my fair-browed belle!

II24 Life with my jewel is existence
Death it is her severance.

II25 Can I forget? I recall always
The charms of her bright battling eyes.

II26 So subtle is my lover's form

Ever in my eyes winking, no harm.

II27 My lover in my eyes abides
I paint them not lest he hides.

II28 My lover abides in my heart
I fear hot food lest he feels hot.

II29 My eyes wink not lest he should hide
And him as cruel the townsmen chide.

II30 He abides happy in my heart
But people mistake he is apart.

3.1.6 Decorum Defied

II31 Pangs of passion find no recourse

Except riding *Palmyra Horse*[†].

[†] Palmyra horse or 'Madal' is a torture expressive of the burning passion of the lover to the beloved. The lover's body is laid on a rough pricking palmyra bed and he is carried along the street with songs of love pangs. The parents of the lovers first reproach them and then consent to their marriage.

II32 Pining body and mind lose shame
And take to riding of the palm.

II33 Once I was modest and manly
My love has now Madal only.

II34 Rushing flood of love sweeps away
The raft of shame and firmness, aye!

II35 Palm-ride and pangs of eventide
Are gifts of wreath-like bracelet maid.

II36 Madal I ride at midnight for
My eyes sleep not seeing this fair.

II37 Her sea-like lust seeks not Madal!
Serene is woman's self control.

II38 Lust betrays itself in haste
Though women are highly soft and chaste.

II39 My perplexed love roves public street
Believing that none knows its secret.

II40 Fools laugh at me before my eyes
For they feel not my pangs and sighs.

3.1.7 Public Glamour

II41 Rumour sustains my existence

Good luck! many know not its sense.

II42 Rumour gives me the flower-like belle

People know not what rare angel.

II43 I profit by this public rumour

Having not, I feel, I have her.

II44 Rumour inflames the love I seek

Or else it becomes bleak and weak.

II45 Drink delights as liquor flows

Love delights as rumour grows.

II46 One lasting day we met alone

Lasting rumours eclipse our moon.

II47 Scandal manures; mother's refrain

Waters the growth of this love-pain.

II48 To quench the lust by rumour free

Is to quench fire by pouring ghee.

II49 Who said "fear not" flared up rumour

Why then should I blush this clamour?

II50 Town raising this cry, I desire

Consent is easy from my sire.

3.2 CHASTE WEDDED LOVE

3.2.1 Pangs of Separation

II51 Tell me if you but do not leave,

Your quick return to those who live.

II52 His sight itself was pleasing, near

Embrace pains now by partings fear.

II53 On whom shall I lay my trust hence

While parting lurks in knowing ones?

II54 He parts whose love told me - fear not

Is my trust in him at default?

II55 Stop his parting - my life to save

Meeting is rare if he would leave.

II56 His hardness says, "I leave you now"

Is there hope of his renewed love?

II57 Will not my gliding bangles' cry

The parting of my lord betray?

II58 Bitter is life in friendless place;

Worse is parting love's embrace!

II59 Can fire that burns by touch bum like

Parting of the hearts love-sick?

II60 Many survive pangs of parting

Not I this sore so distressing.

3.2.2 Wailing of Pining Love

II61 It swells out like baled out spring

How to bear this pain so writhing?

II62 I can't conceal this nor complain

For shame to him who caused this pain.

II63 In life - poles of this wearied frame

Are poised the weights of lust and shame.

II64 My lust is a sea; I do not see

A raft to go across safely.

II65 What wilt they prove when they are foes

Who in friendship bring me woes!

II66 The pleasure in love is oceanful

But its pangs are more painful.

II67 Wild waves of love I swim shoreless

Pining alone in midnight hush.

II68 Night's mercy lulls all souls to sleep

Keeping but me for companionship.

II69 Crueller than that cruel he

Are midnight hours gliding slowly.

II70 Like heart, if my sight reaches him

It won't in floods of tears swim!

3.2.3 Wasteful Look for Wistful Love

- II71** The eye pointed him to me; why then
They weep with malady and pine?
- II72** Why should these dyed eyes grieve now sans
Regrets for their thoughtless glance?
- II73** Eyes darted eager glance that day
It's funny that they weep today.
- II74** These eyes left me to endless grief
Crying adry without relief.
- II75** My eyes causing lust more than sea
Suffer that torture sleeplessly.
- II76** Lo! eyes that wrought this love-sickness
Are victims of the same themselves.
- II77** Let tears dry up pining pining
In eyes that eyed him longing longing.
- II78** Ther's he whose lips loved, not his heart
Yet my eyes pine seeing him not.
- II79** He comes; no sleep; he goes; no sleep
This is the fate of eyes that weep.
- II80** Like drum beats eyes declare my heart;
From people who could hide his secret?

3.2.4 Wailing over Pallor

- II81** My lover's parting, I allowed
Whom to complain my hue pallid?
- II82** Claiming it is begot through him
Pallor creeps and rides over my frame.
- II83** He seized my beauty and modesty
Leaving pangs and Pallor to me.
- II84** He is my thought, his praise my theme
Yet this pallor steals over my frame.
- II85** My lover departed me there
And pallor usurped my body here.

II86 Just as darkness waits for light-off
Pallor looks for lover's arms-off.

II87 From his embrace I turned a nonce
This pallor swallowed me at once.

II88 On my pallor they cast a slur
But none says "lo he parted her".

II89 Let all my body become pale
If he who took my leave fares well.

II90 Let people call me all pallid
But my lover let them not deride.

3.2.6 Pining Alone

- II91** Stoneless fruit of love they have
Who are beloved by those they love.
- II92** The lover-and-beloved's self-givings
Are like rains to living beings.
- II93** The pride of living is for those
Whose love is returned by love so close.
- II94** Whose love is void of love in turn
Are luckless with all esteems they earn.
- II95** What can our lover do us now
If he does not requite our love?
- II96** One sided pains; love in both souls
Poises well like shoulder poles.
- II97** This cupid aims at me alone;
Knows he not my pallor and pain?
- II98** None is so firm as she who loves
Without kind words from whom she dotes.
- II99** The lover accords not my desires
And yet his words sweeten my ears.
- I200** You tell your grief to listless he
Bless my heart! rather fill up sea!

3.2.7 Sad Memories

I201 Love is sweeter than wine; for vast
Is its delight at very thought.

I202 Pains are off at the lover's thought
In all aspects this love is sweet.

I203 To sneeze I tried hence but could not
Me he tried to think but did not.

I204 Have I a place within his heart?
Ah from mine he will never depart.

I205 Shame! My heart often he enters
Banning me entry into his.

I206 Beyond the thought of life with him
What else of life can I presume?

I207 What will happen if I forget
When his memory burns my heart?

I208 I bring him to ceaseless memory
He chides not; and thus honours me.

I209 Dear life ebbs away by thought
Of him who said we are one heart.

I210 Hail moon! Set not so that I find
Him who left me but not my mind.

3.2.8 Dream Visions

I211 How shall I feast this dream-vision
That brings the beloved's love-mission?

I212 I beg these fish-like dark eyes sleep
To tell my lover how life I keep.

I213 In wakeful hours who sees me not
I meet in dreams and linger yet.

I214 In dreams I enjoy his love-bliss
Who in wakeful hours I miss.

I215 Dream-sight of him delights at once
Awake- What of seeing him -hence.

I216 If wakeful hours come to nought
My lov'r in dreams would nev'r depart.

I217 Awake he throws my overtures
Adream, ah cruel! he tortures!

I218 Asleep he embraces me fast;
Awake he enters quick my heart.

I219 In dreams who don't discern lovers
Rue their missing in wakeful hours.

I220 The townsmen say he left me thus
In dreams failing to see him close.

3.2.9 Eventide Sigh

I221 Bless you! you are not eventide
But killing dart to wedded bride!

I222 Hail sad eventide dim and grim
Has your mate like mine, cruel whim!

I223 Wet eve came pale and trembling then
Now it makes bold with growing pain.

I224 Lover away, comes eventide
Like slayer to field of homicide.

I225 What good have I done to morning
And what evil to this evening?

I226 Evening pangs I have not known
When my lord nev'r left me alone.

I227 Budding at dawn burgeoning all day
This disease blooms in evening gay.

I228 A deadly arm, this shepherd's flute
Hails flaming eve and slays my heart.

I229 Deluding eve if it prolongs
The whole town will suffer love-pangs.

I230 Thinking of him whose quest is wealth
My life outlives the twilight stealth.

3.2.10 Limbs Languish

- I231** To lift from want he left me afar
His thought makes my eyes blush the flower.
- I232** My pale tearful eyes betray
The hardness of my husband, away.
- I233** These arms that swelled on nuptial day
Now shrunk proclaim "He is away".
- I234** Bracelets slip off the arms that have
Lost old beauty for He took leave.
- I235** Bereft of bracelets and old beauty
Arms tell the cruel's cruelty.
- I236** Arms thin, armlets loose make you call
My sire cruel; that pains my soul.
- I237** Go and tell the cruel, O mind
Bruit ov'r my arms and glory find.
- I238** The front of this fair one O paled
As my clasping arms loosed their hold.
- I239** Cool breeze crept between our embrace
Her large rain-cloud-eyes paled at once.
- I240** Pale eyes pained seeing the pallor
Of the bright forehead of this fair.

3.2.11 Soliloquy

- I241** Think of, O heart, some remedy
To cure this chronic malady.
- I242** Bless O mind! you pine in vain
For me he has no love serene.
- I243** O mind, why pine and sit moody?
Who made you so pale lacks pity.
- I244** Take these eyes and meet him, O heart
Or their hunger will eat me out.
- I245** He spurns our love and yet, O mind,
Can we desert him as unkind?

I246 Wrath is false, O heart, face-to face.
Sans huff, you rush to his sweet embrace.

I247 Off with love O mind, or shame
I cannot endure both of them.

I248 Without pity he would depart!
You sigh and seek his favour, poor heart!

I249 The lover lives in Self you know;
Whom you think, mind to whom you go?

I250 Without a thought he deserted us
To think of him will make us worse.

3.2.12 Reserve Lost!

- I251** Passion's axe shall break the door
Of reserve bolted with my honour.
- I252** The thing called lust is a heartless power
It sways my mind at midnight hour.
- I253** How to hide this lust which shows
Itself while I sneeze unawares!
- I254** I was proud of my sex-reserve
Lo lust betrays what I preserve.
- I255** Dignity seeks not a deserter
But Love-sick is its innovator.
- I256** O Grief, my deserter you seek
Of your caprice what shall I speak!
- I257** When lover's love does what it desires
We forget all shame unawares.
- I258** The cheater of many wily arts
His tempting words break through women's hearts.
- I259** In huff I went and felt at ease
Heat to heart in sweet embrace.
- I260** To feign dislike is it not rare
For mates who melt like fat in fire?

3.2.13 Mutual Yearning

- I261** My eyes are dim lustre-bereft
Worn fingers count days since he left.
- I262** Beauty pales and my bracelets slide;
Why not forget him now, bright maid?
- I263** Will as guide he went to win
Yet I live-to see him again.
- I264** My heart in rapture heaves to see
His return with love to embrace me.
- I265** Let me but gaze and gaze my spouse
sallow on my soft shoulders files.
- I266** Let my spouse return just a day
Joy-drink shall drive my pain away.
- I267** If my eye-like lord returneth
Shall I sulk or clasp or do both?
- I268** May the king fight and win and give
And with my wife I will feast this eve!
- I269** One day seems as seven to those
Who yearn return of distant spouse.
- I270** When her heart is broken, what is
The good of meeting and love-embrace?

3.2.14 Feeling Surmised

- I271** You hide; but your painted eyes
Restraint off, report your surmise.
- I272** With seemly grace and stem-like arms
The simple she has ample charms.
- I273** Something shines through her jewelled charm
Like thread shining through wreathed gem.
- I274** Like scent in bud secrets conceal
In the bosom of her half smile.
- I275** The close-bangled belle's hidden thought
Has a cure for my troubled heart.

- I276** His over-kind close embrace sooths;
But makes me feel, loveless, he parts.
- I277** Quick, my bracelets read before
The mind of my lord of cool shore.
- I278** My lover parted but yesterday;
With sallowness it is seventh day.
- I279** She views her armlets, her tender arms
And then her feet; these are her norms.
- I280** To express love-pangs by eyes and pray
Is womanhood's womanly way.

3.2.15 Longing for Reunion

- I281** Rapture at thought and joy when seen
Belong to love and not to wine.
- I282** When passion grows palmyra-tall
Sulking is wrong though millet-small.
- I283** Though slighting me he acts his will
My restless eyes would see him still.
- I284** Huff I would, maid, but I forget;
And leap to embrace him direct.
- I285** When close I see not lord's blemish
Like eyes that see not painter's brush.
- I286** When he's with me I see not fault
And nought but fault when he is not.
- I287** To leap in stream which carries off
When lord is close to feign a huff.
- I288** Like wine to addicts that does disgrace
Your breast, O thief, is for my embrace!
- I289** Flower-soft is love; a few alone
Know its delicacy so fine.
- I290** She feigned dislike awhile but flew
Faster for embrace than I do.

3.2.16 Chiding the Heart

I291 You see, his heart is his alone;
Why not my heart be all my own?
I292 O heart, you see how he slights me
Yet you clasp him as if friendly.
I293 You follow him at will. Is it
"The fallen have no friends" my heart?
I294 You won't sulk first and then submit
Who will then consult you, my heart?
I295 Frets to gain and fears loss in gain
O my heart suffers ceaseless pain.
I296 My itching mind eats me anon
As I muse on him all alone.
I297 I forget shame but not his thought
In mean foolish mind I'm caught.
I298 My heart living in love of him
Hails his glory ignoring blame.
I299 Who support a man in grief
If lover's heart denies relief?
I300 Why wonder if strangers disown
When one's own heart is not his own?

3.2.17 Bouderie

I301 Feign sulk; embrace him not so that
We can see his distress a bit.
I302 Sulking is the salt of love; but
Too much of it spoils the taste.
I303 To leave the sulker unembraced
Is to grieve the one sorely grieved.
I304 To comfort not lady in pout
Is to cut the fading plant at root.
I305 Pouting of flower-eyed has
To pure good mates a lovely grace.
I306 Love devoid of frowns and pets

Misses its ripe and unripe fruits.

I307 "Will union take place soon or late?"
In lover's pout this leaves a doubt.

I308 What's the good of grieving lament
When concious lover is not present?

I309 Water delights in a shady grove
And sulking in souls of psychic love.

I310 My heart athirst would still unite
With her who me in sulking left!

3.2.18 Feigned Anger

I311 I shrink to clasp you bosom lewd
To the gaze of all ladies exposed.

I312 He sneezed while we went on sulking
Expecting me to say "live long".

I313 "For which lady?" she widely cries
While I adorn myself with flowers.

I314 "I love you more than all" I said
"Than whom, than whom?" she sulked and chid.

I315 "In this life we won't part" I told
Her eyes at once with tears were filled.

I316 I said "I thought of you". She left
Her embrace crying "Oft you forget".

I317 I sneezed; she blessed; then changed and wept
"You sneezed now at which lady's thought?"

I318 I repressed sneeze; she wept crying
"Your thoughts from me you are hiding".

I319 I try to coax her and she remarks
"Your coaxing others thus this marks".

I320 I think and gaze at her; she chides:
"On whom your thought just now abides?"

3.2.19 Sulking Charm

I321 He is flawless; but I do pout.

So that his loving ways show out.

I322 Fading first, love blooms and outlives

The petty pricks that pouting gives.

I323 Is there a heaven like sulk beneath

Of hearts that join like water and earth?

I324 In long pout after embrace sweet

A weapon is up to break my heart.

I325 Though free from faults, one feels the charms

Of feigned release from lover's arms.

I326 Sweeter than meal is digestion

And sulk in love than union.

I327 The yielder wins in lover's pout

Reunited joy brings it out.

I328 Shall not our pouting again give

The dew-browed joy of joint love?

I329 Sulk on O belle of shining jewels!

Prolong O night! our delight swells!

I330 Bouderie is lovers' delight

Its delight grows when they unite.



The End.



to recognise tiruvalluvar and his works, tamilnadu government has built a 133 feet tall statue for him in the southernmost tip of india where the arabian sea, the bay of bengal, and the indian ocean confluence. the height of 133 feet signifies the 133 **adhikarams** (chapters).

